Saul Tevis & their Sons

Soul fevers & their cure

Mt. 8:14 "He touched her hand, and the fever left her."

Intro – According to the Gospel of Mt. – after Sermon on Mt. – great multitudes followed Jesus.

– Leper – "Lord if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean."
Jesus – stretching forth his hand, touched the leper, saying, "I will, be thou made clean."

– The centurion request on behalf of his sick servant. Jesus offered to go to the house, but the centurion pleaded unworthiness of such attention & exclaimed, "only say the word and my servant shall be healed."

– When Jesus & disciples reached Peter's house, they found Peter's wife sick of a fever

Text – "He touched her hand, & the fever left her."

– Am going to apply the text symbolically to soul fevers & their cure.

Sick minds & hearts & souls often cause sick bodies, and their healing is of greater importance.

By his touch, Jesus drove the fever out of the body of Peter's wife, & by his touch Christ can drive the fevers out of our souls.

2/

I. Some soul fevers

1. The fever of anxiety. We become "heated hot with burning fears". We are anxious about what we did yesterday; we are fearful of what we are doing today; and we dread the things of tomorrow.
~~What~~ How foolish & harmful it is to fear. It impairs and enervates our powers. It wrecks our nerves. It destroys our self-control. It undermines our morale.

2. There is the fever of ignorant zealousness.
a - Zeal is necessary to any success. We need to put enthusiasm & pep into our religious living. But our heat may be accompanied by a lot of smoke. We need not only heat - but light. John the Baptist was a "burning and a shining light."
And so the N.T. has much to say about the necessity of "knowledge", "understanding", "discernment", and we are strongly warned against a religious life without illumination & understanding. "They have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge."
Zeal bereft of knowledge becomes a dangerous fever.

Read "Take time to think".

Take Time

We shall not get time for meditation and shall be sure to neglect it unless we make set times for it and let it become a habit of our daily living. We must provide for a "quiet hour" with God each day, just as we do for the morning and evening prayer; then by and by it will become a fixed habit, and both the art and the time for practicing it will be gained.

Take time to think:
Thought oft will save thee from the snare,
Bring thee to cooling streams and bowers,
Spare thee from nursing needless care,
Surround thee with defensive towers;
Yield thee the harvest of content,
Lift thee from dust to starry ways,
Discover comfort heaven-sent
In thy most dark and cheerless days;
Therefore, take time to think.

Take time to pray;
For when thou pray'st the vision's cleared,
The voice is toned, the will's subdued,
The dear are to thee more endeared,
And the soul's failing strength's renewed.
In prayer the purest words are spoken,
The mind receives heaven's holy light,
The heart is given the Spirit's token,
The hands are charged with wisdom's might;
Therefore, take time to pray.

3/ 3. Then is the fever of superstition.
Most superstitions arise from a fear of the unknown and from an unworthy conception of God.
The life that is haunted with superstitions is never calm & restful - it is feverish.
Plenty of superstition in our own enlightened day - Hallowe'en ghosts & spooks. Friday the 13th. Black cats crossing in front of us.
Then there are superstitions that gather around rituals & sacraments & sacred celebrations, all of which help to rob life of composure & fill it with perilous heat.

4. Then there is the fever of success. Success often arouses uncontrollable desires & cravings. Sometimes the more a man gets, the more he wants. Many a man loses his soul in the fever of his successes.

II. Now for the healing touch - "He touched her hand & the fever left her."
Thru communion & fellowship we make it possible for Christ to touch our souls.
Jesus was always calm & never distracted.
The cool hand on a burning forehead.
When the Spirit of Christ touches our spirits we are calmed, & we grow restful & self-possessed

4 Not only does the touch of the Master's spirit drive out the fever - but his presence practically keeps it out.

He turns our weakness into strength. Isaiah - "He that believeth shall not make haste."

Poet & artist examining Poussin's painting - "The healing of the two blind men of Jericho." artist asked - What is the most remarkable thing in the picture?"

Poet - Everything in picture is excellent - form of X, grouping of individuals, facial expression, etc.

Artist, pointing to steps of a house in corner of picture - "Do you see that discarded cane lying there? On those steps the blind man sat with a cane in his hand, but when he heard X come, he was so sure that he would be healed that he left his cane there, since he would need it no more, and hastened to the Lord as if he could see already. Is not that a wonderful conception of faith?"

The artist was right. Far too often we hold on to our canes & crutches & other means of self-help instead of going to the Helper Divine.

5/III. And Peter's wife "arose & ministered unto him." In gratitude for her restored health & strength she ministered unto her Savior.

Serving the Lord in the various ways of helpfulness to others is the one sure way of keeping spiritually healthy & strong.

We hear a great deal today about physical fitness, and all very well — but we should be as much concerned, if not more about our spiritual fitness for right living.

The World is wide
In time & tide;
And God is guide,
Then do not hurry.

The man is blest
Who does his best
And leaves the rest,
Then do not worry. — Chas. F. Deems

May the Healing Spirit of Jesus Christ touch every soul present this morning!